

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5       An bench top grill includes at least one grilling element proximate a grilling zone bounded on at least two sides, a user safety mechanism, and an easily cleaned and maintained aesthetic design. At least one guard member proximate the grilling element provides a safe grilling position in a grilling zone. A utensil rest, optionally integrated with the user safety mechanism, supports a user's utensil and enables a guided grilling of a food item in the grilling zone during use.